

Extract from  
Interrogation of Hideki Tojo  
29 March 1946

p. 1 - 4

Q Were you not responsible for the rules, the orders and the action taken which led to the sentences of execution or imprisonment of American fliers since 7 December 1941?

A Of course I am responsible for army orders and regulations.

Q You mean for such orders and regulations?

A Well, I am not just sure what ones you refer to. I don't remember any regulations particularly directed against fliers before 18 October 1942 when Japan was raided by American fliers. There may have been some before that, but I don't remember clearly. I do remember that there were some after that.

Q For what actions taken at that time or afterwards in this connection were you responsible?

A The raid on 18 October 1942 was contrary to international law. It was not against troops but against non-combatants, primary school students, and so forth. We knew this and, since this was not permitted by international law, it was homicide (satsu-jin). Japan acted on this concept and I ordered (kaketa) courts martial (gunritsu kaigi), or at least they were just about like courts martial. You probably won't be able to understand this unless you understand something about Japanese feelings at this time. This was the first time Japan had been bombed, and it was a great shock. Public feeling ran very high. Now, of course, since the indiscriminate bombing of medium and small cities which were undefended and the use of the atom bomb, all things which are not permitted under international law, the tragic spectacle of this country today makes this first raid look like a very small thing, but it was a great shock to the people at the time.

Q And the extreme punishments meted out to these first fliers were mainly given as a deterrent to prevent future raids, were they not?

A Yes, they were for that reason. There was a demand from Imperial Headquarters. The Army Chief of Staff came to me directly and demanded severe punishment for the fliers.

Q Who was the Army Chief of Staff?

A SUGIYAMA.

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Q What did you say in reply, and what did you do as a result of this request?

A I issued this order. It was an order for military administration. As to the form, I am not positive whether the order was issued over my name or by Imperial Headquarters, but no matter who issued it, I am responsible for it.

Q Who else from Imperial Headquarters was the Chief of Staff speaking for when he made the request that he did of you for this punishment?

A He came on his own responsibility, not representing anyone else. I remember this because the Chief of Staff didn't often come to me directly about things.

Q Did you receive any order from the Emperor in this connection, or discuss the matter with him or report to him before taking the action that you did?

A The Emperor is not related at all to this problem. When the report of the court martial came from China to the Chief of Staff and to myself, the verdict, as I recall it, was that all eight men were to be executed. The Chief of Staff came to me and demanded that the findings of the court be carried out. I knew, however, of the Emperor's benevolence and, with that in mind, and because of his feelings, wished to have only the minimum number of men executed. Therefore, it was decided that only the three who had killed primary school students would receive the death penalty. This was discussed with the Emperor, since the Emperor in Japan is the only one who can commute a sentence, and it was decided that way. That one point was the Emperor's only relation to the thing.

Q So the Emperor reviewed all eight cases and commuted the death penalties from eight to three?

A No, he didn't review them. In Japan, courts martial have only one hearing. That is because of their military character. Ordinary trials have three hearings.

Q On what basis did the Emperor take this action? Did you propose it?

A Yes, I did. It was on my responsibility as adviser to the Throne, but the commutation was the Emperor's because of the fact that the Emperor is invariably benevolent.

p. 1 - 4 cont'd

Q Was not this order, which was issued by you for the trial and punishment of these fliers, an ex post facto law?

A Yes, it was.

Q Then the order of occurrences was as follows: the raid, the capture of the fliers, the order which you issued, the trial, and the executions?

A Yes.

Q And the order that you issued provided for the trial and punishment?

A Yes, it was the basis. However, the order, in turn, was based on the fact of the raid. Of course the order was not an order to execute eight men, it was an order whereby trials could be held based on the fact of the raid.

Q So that, as the result of the raid, this order or law was promulgated by you and made retroactive to the date of the raid?

A Yes.

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p. 1 - 4 cont'd

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文書回収 一八三八号

一九四六年三月二十九日東條英機証問板

第一回

向、一九四一年十二月七日攻撃本國軍艦行士、死刑第三  
九、八級、判決ヲ乞テラニ規則、命令及ビ措置ニ  
付貴方の責任者アリニシタリ。

答、勿論和陸軍、命令、規則、責任者アリス。

向次上、命令、規則、意味アリス。

答、六、下、分、御有アリルカハキリシ也。和日本が米  
国艦行隊三九爆撃テ是ナク一九四三年十月十八日以前  
ニ、特ニ艦行士、奸心規則ト云フノ記憶ニシテ居リ也  
シ。ノ、以前ニイクニカアリカレバレニシ。ヨリハカリ是  
事居リ也。實、後ニ若干アツタハ是也居リ也。

向、本件、何アリ、其、時或、其、後ニ執ラシテ如何、其處  
ニ何、貴方の責任アリテスカ。

答、一九四三年十月八日、立憲、國際法違反テシ。ソハ  
軍隊、奸心モナク非歎開宣小學生等ニ奸心モ  
テシ。和其、眞、事實ヲ承知ナリニシヨリシテハ  
國際法テ、許サシテ居カツタモノ、殺人テシ。日本ハ此  
、觀念、行動スコトニ和、軍律會議（陸軍法  
會議ト云ベキ也）ニ掛ケタシテス。

貴方ハ當時、日本人、心持テ少シアリシト承知ナシ、  
立、又リ方ハ御了解ナレナイテセウ。之ハ日本が初テ爆  
撃、是ナク時テ大半テ衝動アツタシテス。一般、感情非常  
興奮シテ、勿論食、災害備、中小都市、要差別爆撃ス

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Dec 1834

序文略譯、使用等一ノテ國際法ヲ許セシイ事案アリ人未  
今日、此國、悲惨ト光景シ右、最初、空襲、一些事  
運ナリ、如クシニシビニシカ當時、國民ニ取ニ誠ニ大  
ナ衝動アリテス。

向此、最初、船行士ニ謀セラタ極形ハ主ニテ精神ノ運  
騒ナシ、威嚇、意味ガアリテス。

答左様アリ、其意味、モアリ。大本營カラ聞、乃アリ  
シ。參謀總長、直接、處ニ至テ、船行士ニ村正殿御  
ヲ嘗未シテス。

向參謀總長、誰ア。

答杉山アス。

向貴方ハ何ト追事ラニシタリ。」  
「此、貴方、結果貴方ハ  
ウ威嚇ミシタ。

答和貴命令奉リシタ。ソハ軍政ニ村正殿命令アリ。形上  
シ、命令が私、必ず志アリ大本營ニ依テ此事ハ御上院ニ  
シ、誰ガ主ニセ王和が責任者ア。

向參謀總長、此刑三何丁貴方ニ要ルシタ、大本營内也、誰  
代行者トシテヤリタア。

答總長ハ、徑衝テシテ奉リシタ。誰外、人、代表テ事タニ、アリセニ。  
總長官道降未ルトハ、滅多ニカシテ此、了ト、遺王テ居ス。

向貴方ハ、措置ヲ取ル前、此、書テ天皇カラ何カ命令ヲ發ナリ。  
トヨ天皇ニ相談シ、或、天皇、報告ナシタコトアリ  
ミタ。

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答天皇ハ、全然此、問題ニ用意セラシセ。

中國カラ軍律會

1944/8/3 A

議、報告が參謀總長と私と二人で其の判決を聞けます。今私と  
恩上出入りでテスか！八人全部死刑ニフルミテアリス。總長  
ハ私、處事未テ此一會議、判決ヲ實行シテ欲シイト、要求がアリス  
シ。然シ私ハ天皇、仁愛深ヲアリルコトヲ承知シテ居リシタ。  
テ其、コトヲ考へ旦天皇、御心情ヲ考ベテ最も少限、著、死刑ヲ  
希望シテ居タ、テス。此、タゞニ小學生ヲ殺シテ三人丈が死刑ヲ  
蒙ケルコト=決定シタ、テス。此、コトハ天皇ト御相談ヲシシトス  
フ、ハ日本テハ減刑出来ルハ天皇御一人テアルカラテス。ソシテコトア  
フ、鳳=決定サシシタ。天皇が本件を了解セラシ、ハ此、一言丈テス。  
内、ソラスルト天皇ハ八人、併體テヲ再審査シテ死刑ヲ八人カラ三  
人ニ減シシト云フ、テスネ。

答、イ、エ、天皇ハ再審査ハナリナカツ、テス。日本テハ軍律會議  
ハ一審アル、ミテス。スハシ、軍事性カラホテキル、テス。普通、裁  
判ハ三審制=ナ、テ居リス。

内、何ニ基イテ天皇ハコト處置ヲナス、タ、テセウカ。貴ヲが提案  
シ、テスカ。

答、左様テス。翰弼、責任アル者トシテ欲シシ。然ニ減刑ハ天  
皇、ナカツコトアス。天皇ハ常ニ倫理ニ拘泥テアリルカラテス。  
内、ハ、弁行士、裁判又刑罰ハ國ニ由貴ヲカラ出シシ命令ハ事後也  
律テハアリマセシタシ。

答、左様テス。

内、ソラスルト、事件進行順序ハ次、通りアリス、即ク空襲、  
弁行士、逮捕、貴ヲ、ヨシカ命令、裁判、刑、執行トナリス

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No. 4

Dec 4/8.3.A

答. 左林テス。

内. リシテ書ろ、此シテ命令、裁判上刑罰の規定シテス。

答. 左林テス。ソシテ基準ナリトニシ。然ニ命令ニ、モ、  
證上心、事實ニ基ナリ事アリテス。勿論其、命令ハ八人、著、  
ヲ執行スル命令ナリテス。其、命令ニ依テ空證、事實ニ

内. ソラスル、空證、結果上リ書ろ。此、命令又ハ法律ナリ

ソシテ空證、日本法セルコトナリテス。

答. 左林テス。

Doc. No. 4183B

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29 March 1946

p. 6 - 7

Q Did not the heads of the various Prison camps have to make a monthly report to the Military Bureau with respect to the prisoners under their care in connection with food, health, labor, and so forth?

A I think they did on a basis of regulations. This is a routine matter.

Q And those reports were consolidated, were they not, and sent to the War Minister?

A The War Minister received a stack of papers about a foot and a half high each day, and I suppose that was among them.

Q You do know, do you not, that those reports were compiled and forwarded to the War Minister?

A The extracts were probably reported on at the meetings of the bureau chiefs which took place twice weekly.

Q Was the matter of the death rate from malnutrition, and other causes, shown by these reports discussed at these meetings?

A Yes, it was, and I paid particular attention to it. The responsibility for these matters belongs to the army commanders in the field. However, when they couldn't fulfill their responsibilities, they would make requests of the War Ministry. These requests came to the chief of the Military Affairs Bureau and, after consultation between the latter and the commanders in the field, the War Ministry would take action either by sending food, or some other means.

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1941.8.3 B

一九四六年三月十九日東條英機訊向板萃

第六十一頁

Ex 1944

問. 各俘虜收容所長ハ其取扱ニカ、俘虜、食事健康清衛等  
答. 行軍務局ニ月報ヲスコトニナシ居テ、テハイテスカ  
規則ニ基1テヤテ居タル事ニス。之ハ習例、事ニス  
問. 之テ其報告ハ取リテモラヒテ陸軍大臣ニ届ケラシタデス。

答. 陸軍大臣ハ毎日一尺五寸カラアル高サ、深山、書類ヲ受取シテ居  
シテ、其中アツクナト思ニス。

問. 之等報告書ハ經メテ陸軍大臣ニ呈出サシタトイフ事ニシテヰス  
カドウテスカ

答. 其板萃ハ多く毎週二回開催、局長會議ニ報告サシテモハ思  
ヒマス。

問. 之等報告書ニ示サシタ栄養不良其、他、原因ニヨル死亡率  
コトハ此、局長會議ア論議サシタデスカ。

答. 左様テス。松井其、吳ニ特ニ注意セテ居リシ。此、事項付  
テ、責任ハ現地、軍司令官アリス。然ニ軍司令官が責任ヲ果  
シ得ナ時ハ陸軍省ニ要求スルコトニナシ居マシ。此、要求ハ  
軍務局長、又ニ軍務局長ニ現地司令官ト協議後  
陸軍省ハ食糧ヲ送ルカ其、他、方法ニヨル久置ヲトルコトニナシテ  
居マシ。

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